IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re Patent Application of: | `` | |
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| Hisashi OHTANI et al. |) | Examiner: Andrew Richards |
| Serial No. 09/837,552 |) | Group Art Unit: 2815 |
| Filed: April 19, 2001 |) | |
| For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD T | HEREOF) | |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby submit the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed.

The documents are being submitted within three (3) months of the filing of this application or entry into the national stage of this application, or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later, therefore no fee or certification is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Applicant's wish to bring to the Examiner's attention that Publication Nos. US-2001/0030722; US-2002/0080295; and U.S. Patent No. 6,323,068 were cited in related application Serial No. 09/837,877. In addition, U.S. Patent Nos. 6,479,333 and 6,603,453 were cited in related application Serial No. 09/837,558.

It is requested that the accompanying PTO-1449 be considered and made of record in the above-identified application. To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initial a copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this filing which may be required now, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey I. Costellia

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Complete if Known Substitute for form 1449A/PTO Application Number 09/837,552 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE April 19, 2001 Filing Date STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Hisashi OHTANI et al. First Named Inventor (use as many sheets as necessary) 2815 Art Unit Andrew Richards **Examiner Name** 1 of ı Sheet Attorney Docket Number 740756-2296

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
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| Examiner Initials | Cite Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the No. item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.)., date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | | | T ² | | |
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| Examiner | Date | |
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| Signature | Considered | |

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.